

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

December 10, 2020

Attendance: Mayor Becky Schroeder called the regular meeting of the Athena City Council to order at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Roll was taken with Councilors Katie Zmuda, Wayne Kostur, and Gene Wright present. Councilors Sally Thompson and Pat Gibson were excused. City Recorder Michelle Fox and three guests were also in attendance. Since this was the first meeting held via Zoom, Michelle went over some rules to try to make the meeting run smoothly.

Business from the Public:

Athena Mainstreet Association (AMA): April Vorhauer Flatt reported for the Athena Mainstreet Association. The Adopt-a-Highway clean-up day had 9 volunteers this year. The first annual Winter Light Parade was very successful with 23 entries. A big thank you to the Watts Fund for sponsoring this event. Many compliments were received from the community. The Stahl building construction is moving along. The first phase of the electrical is complete. The AMA is excited to announce that they have moved into the office space upstairs in the Stahl building.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 11/12/20 meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 3-0

Actionable Items: Mayor Schroeder touched on a few of the topics listed on the Candidates Forum Summary page. She explained what had been done or is being done regarding these topics. She would like the council to pick two topics from the list that they would like to see the council address for next year. Council is to contact Michelle with their choices. Mayor Schroeder reminded the councilors that their topic choices must fit within the budget constraints, be in the best interest of the citizens of Athena, not just one individual or group, and not place added burden to the daily work duties of our existing employees.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: Two letters of interest were submitted for the Planning Commission vacancies. Mayor Schroeder accepted the letters of interest and reappointed Everett Pixler and Brenda Vorhauer to the Planning Commission for a new four-year term.

Old Business: Mayor Schroeder encouraged the councilors to sign up for the LOC "Elected Essentials" Workshop being held virtually on December 15, 2020.

New Business: A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2020-08, Accepting Certified Election Results. Motion carried 3-0.

Michelle informed the council that a new round of Covid-19 Assistance Grants were available to our local small businesses. She explained how the City of Athena staff tried to spread the word to our businesses through phone calls, hand delivering applications, posting grant applications at post office and City Hall, and posting the grant website link to our community website in hopes our community businesses could receive some relief. Councilor Wright volunteered to meet with Michelle and a representative from Umatilla County to review applications for the City of Athena.

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Library: Councilor Zmuda told the council she is very encouraged how the library is doing considering just being able to provide curbside service. Many thanks to Kristin for keeping things going during these tough times. Kristin also informed the Council that Santa is unable to come to the Library this year, but he will be virtual.

Parks & Rec: None

Public Works: The Christmas lights on Main street have been put up and Main street looks very festive.

Fire: The new fire district is doing very well.

Sheriff: Councilor Kostur spoke with a representative from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Department regarding installing cameras on Main Street. He was told that the very high-quality cameras are needed, especially to capture images at night. It would just be a matter of cost. Mayor Schroeder also informed the Council that the Umatilla County Sheriff's Department has met all their contractual duties and metrics.

Administration: All City offices will be closed December 24-25 for Christmas.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **January 14, 2021 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room and via Zoom.

Approved: Becky Schroeder, Mayor _____

Attested: Michelle Fox, CMC, City Recorder _____